

Evening Public Ledger THE EVENING TELEGRAPH PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY

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DEBARKATION PROPRIETIES. RATHER unwonted sense of the fitness of things is revealed in the announcement concerning the first shipload of returned soldiers which will arrive in this port about the middle of next month.

She is a veteran of the vacationist era, the Haverton, named for a Philadelphia suburb and long ago played in service when Clement C. Griscom, a Philadelphia, was president of the International Mercantile Marine, which owned her.

In spite of registry, the Haverton and her sister, the Merion, took rank as familiar native institutions. The Delaware as well as the Mersey claims them and will welcome the former with intensified affection when she fittingly carries back the first of our heroes to be shipped directly home.

Forces of the first-named nation were to have held the Coblenz sector, those of the second the Mayence region and those of the third the Cologne bridgehead.

The abolition of dual office holding demanded in the fourth point is so important that there should be no objection to it. If the Councilmen were provided with a salary the only excuse for dual office holding would be removed and the politicians would doubtless favor it.

The fifth point, calling for the inclusion in a single act of all legal provisions governing the city, is merely a demand that the city shall have a real charter instead of being governed as now by a lot of independent and unrelated statutes.

The demand for an annual budget compiled by the Mayor and the levying each year of a tax sufficient to raise the money needed is also a detail of procedure on which there can be no serious disagreement.

If the French are aggressors that fact should be made clear. If the present situation has reasonable and legitimate warranty, the War Department should say so.

The Christmas shopping season at home, as well as disgruntled junkies in Hunland, brings its quota of counter-attacks.

SOLDIERS MAY KEEP THEIR UNIFORMS. SECRETARY BAKER'S order that discharged soldiers may retain their uniforms is the most popular pronouncement that has come from him since he entered office.

The uniform is a souvenir of service of great sentimental value. It is associated with heroic achievements, and even when the wearer has had no opportunity to do anything unusual it is associated with a period of his life on which he will always look back with pride.

COMMON SENSE ABOUT RUSSIA. THE frankness of Viscount Milner's explanation of the intervention in Russia is refreshing. He states facts which none but the Bolsheviks and their sympathizers are likely to have the fatuity to dispute.

Among the urgent legitimate reasons for interference he cites the repeated acts of the Lenin-Trotsky faction, which were favorable to our enemies and permitted hundreds of thousands of German troops to be transferred to the western front.

When it comes to drafting an act embodying the principles laid down in these nine points it may be as difficult as to embody President Wilson's fourteen points in a peace treaty, but nevertheless the attempt should be made sincerely and in good faith by all the parties in interest, which means all groups of opinion in the city.

But it ought to be remembered that there can be no satisfactory and successful charter revision engineered by a small group of citizens representing only a part of the interests of the city.

THIS is a age of strange and stirring beauty, of extraordinary romance and adventure, of new joys and pains. And yet our Christmas artists have nothing more to offer us than the old formalism of Yuletide convention.

IT IS said that man's material achievements have outrun his imagination; that poets and painters are too puny to grapple with the world as it is.

Alles to protect the vast military stores lying at Archangel and Vladivostok. The presence of the Entente armies in Russia at the present moment is defended on the ground that "if all the Allies were to scramble out of Russia at once the result would almost certainly be that the barbarism that at present reigns in only a part of that country would spread over the whole of it, including the vast regions of northern and central Asia, which were included in the dominions of the Czar."

AN ADMIRABLE BASIS FOR CHARTER REVISION

The Nine Points of the Winston Committee Lay Down the Fundamental Principles

THE purpose of the committee at work on the charter is to bring about agreement among as many groups of opinion as possible. All groups of opinion should be represented and all suggestions made should be received with the respect which the standing and authority of the suggesting group deserve.

An admirable basis of preliminary discussion has been presented in the nine points set forth by the Winston committee. There is virtual agreement on the first one, that there should be one councilmanic body and that it should be small.

The second point, that representation in the Council shall not be based on the ward as a unit, is tied up with the first. The politicians are inclined to favor ward representation because that will permit them to preserve their present organization with the least possible disturbance.

Now, as we understand it, the purpose of revision is not to destroy or build up any political organization, but to arrange a better system of government for the city. It would seem to be the part of wisdom to discover what compromise can be reached between the politicians on this point of the unit of representation and the citizens who think that the ward system is utterly had and should be abandoned altogether.

The third point, declaring for the removal of "arbitrary and hurtful restrictions in making contracts," is somewhat indefinite, but it doubtless refers to the removal of the one-year limit now existing on street cleaning and garbage collection contracts, which virtually ties the city to a small group of contractors with plans already in existence.

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successful charter revision engineered by a small group of citizens representing only a part of the interests of the city. This is so obvious that no argument is needed to prove it. A new charter drafted by a group of reformers for putting the politicians out of business would be as objectionable as a new charter drafted by one political faction to make it impossible for another faction to live.

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THE CHAFFING DISH

Christmas Cards. BY A STROKE of good luck we found a little shop where a large overstock of Christmas cards was selling at two for five. The original 6's and 10's were still penciled on them, and while we were debating whether to rub them off a thought occurred to us.

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CONGRESSMAN MOORE'S LETTER

Speculation About Who Originated the Song, "Hail! Hail! the Gang's All Here"—Cyrus D. Woods in the Delanor Campaign—When John Wanamaker Brought Blaine to Philadelphia

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21. CYRUS D. WOODS, who is to be continued as Secretary of State under Governor-elect Spruiell, is from Greensburg, in western Pennsylvania, although he grew up in John G. Johnson's law office in Philadelphia and practiced there.

JOHN DALZELL keeps a home in Washington, where he once figured as a "High Priest of Protection." He dropped in to hear the President's "farewell message" before his departure for Europe, but that was a rather unusual circumstance.

MAYOR JAMES H. PRESTON, of Baltimore, is the head of a recently organized association of Mayors whose object is to assist the Atlantic Deep-sea Waterways Association in promoting the intra-coastal project from New England to Florida.

THAT Delanor campaign aroused certain members of the Union League to action and resulted in bringing James G. Blaine, then Secretary of State in Harrison's Cabinet, to Philadelphia.

A daily paper mentions "the Senate subcommittee which is investigating beer and German propaganda." Even the hardest task has its compensations.

A French visitor to the Murat mansion speaks of "his charming smile, and a number of Congressmen are trying to remember what it looks like.

Some of us have to wait a long time for posterity to do us justice. For instance; what a lot of mean things have been said about her. But now comes Oliver Herford, who utters the last and final word on the subject.

THE blame on Eve for Adam's fall; The most Eve did was to display Contributory negligence. The Garden of Eden Incident may now be considered closed.

None Sadder. The saddest words we ever get Are these: You lady's not done yet! HENRY THE HERMIT.

I sent my soul into the invisible. Some secret of the after life to spell, And soul, returning droler, said to me "No chance of lowering the H. C. L." SOCRATES.

got back, and got there quickly: "No, it was simpler, it was sweeter than that; it was 'Home, Sweet Home.'"

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Little Studies in Words

HAIR, hail, the gang's all here!" which begins and ends with a single stanza. It would be difficult to say just where and how this rattling marching song originated.

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What Do You Know?

QUIZ

- 1. Where is the German fleet, whose final destination is now being discussed? 2. Of what metals is brass composed? 3. Who is the Downer Green of Great Britain? 4. In what two countries are the scenes of Shakespeare's "Othello" laid? 5. Who was Benvenuto Cellini? 6. What is another name, and a more correct one, for the battle of Hastings, in which William the Conqueror defeated the English under Harold? 7. What is the meaning of the word waltz, used in the phrase "to make the waltz ring"? 8. What noted American novelist wrote the campaign life of Franklin Pierce when the latter was running for President of the United States? 9. What kind of footwear are Wellingtons? 10. In whose administration was a treaty providing for the annexation of Santo Domingo to the United States turned down by the Senate?

Answers to Yesterday's Quiz

- 1. Arthur J. Balfour is the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. 2. During the war 120 persons were killed and 417 wounded in Paris by shots from the German aeroplanes. During the last ten months of the struggle there were 1311 casualties in the city from air bombs. 3. The Three Graces were Euboea, Azalea and Thalia. 4. General Grant was christened Hiram Ulysses, but was commonly known by his middle name. The Congressman who recommended him for West Point believed to be his first name and on his own initiative inserted the middle name Simpson, that of Grant's mother's family. He was therefore listed as West Point Simpson Grant and the initials were retained to this day. 5. Juneau is the capital of Alaska. 6. The first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States comprise what is generally known as the Bill of Rights. 7. Thomas Hardy wrote the novel "Tess of the D'Urbervilles." 8. Lona de Vega, a noted Spanish writer, was the most prolific of the world's dramatists. He is accredited with the authorship of 1200 plays and 400 "autos" (shorter pieces). His dates are 1562-1635. 9. Robert the Devil was a Duke of Normandy, who supported the English against the French, and made a difference to Jersey. Many myths have collected about his name. His dates are 1088-1134. 10. "Four-de-als" should be pronounced as though spelled "four-deals," with the "s." It is an instance of a name which has been changed in the English word.